

U.S. Pat. Appl. 10/509,334

Amendments to the Abstract:

ABSTRACT

Please replace the abstract that appears on page 16 of the specification with the following revised abstract which is submitted on a separate sheet.

Abstract

~~The invention concerns an~~ An apparatus for detecting a predefined fill level of a medium in a container having a lid $[(1)]$ by means of a conductive measuring system, which has at least two measuring electrodes $[(2, 3)]$ extending into the container $[(,)]$ ~~wherein a~~ A measurement current $[(I_M)]$ flowing between the two measuring electrodes $[(2, 3)]$ is used to detect the reaching of the predefined fill level. ~~An object of the invention is to make~~ The apparatus makes possible a differentiated detection of accretions on the lid $[(1)]$ of the container. ~~The object is achieved according~~ According to one variant of the invention $[(by)]$ this is achieved by providing a compensation electrode $[(4)]$, which is arranged such that the degree of fouling in the region of the lid $[(1)]$ of the container is determined on the basis of a current $[(I_D)]$ flowing between one of the measuring electrodes $[(2, 3)]$ and the compensation electrode, caused by conductive accretions in the lid $[(1)]$ of the container.